



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY
P.O. BOX 1321
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903-1321
302-672-7642
www.ohs.delaware.gov

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Andrea Summers
Community Relations Officer
302-672-7642 302-943-7293 (c)

Delaware Again Receives High Rating for its Traffic Safety Laws

Dover – For the third year in a row, Delaware is one of a select number of states to receive a green, or high, rating for its traffic safety laws. The report from the national organization, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, released its 2009 Roadmap to State Highway Safety Laws Monday morning. The Roadmap report rates each state based on its adoption of what the group considers to be 15 essential safety laws.

The fact that Delaware received a rating of green means that the Advocates group feels that the First State is “significantly advanced toward adoption of all Advocates recommended optimal laws.” They include laws covering occupant protection, impaired driving, graduated driver licensing, child passenger safety and motorcycle helmet use.

Delaware is ranked in the top 5 of 16 states which received the green rating. The First State also remains the only state in the nation to have all five provisions recommended by Advocates for an Optimal Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) law, and therefore the only state to receive a “green” rating. “Fortunately, statistics show that since our original GDL law was implemented in 1999, crashes involving 16 year old drivers have been cut by more than half,” according to Tricia Roberts, Director of the Delaware Office of Highway Safety.

“We are constantly striving to implement the most effective programs and traffic safety legislation which will continue to lead us toward our ultimate goal of saving lives and preventing injuries on our roadways,” said Roberts. “While we are again pleased to receive a high rating, we know there is still much work to be done.”

The Advocate’s report encourages the First State to implement an Open Container law, one that mandates BAC testing of those killed in car crashes as well as the installation of Ignition

Interlock Devices in the vehicles of first time DUI offenders, as well as an all-rider motorcycle helmet law.

For more information about highway safety laws and programs in Delaware, please visit our website at www.ohs.delaware.gov. The 2009 Roadmap to State Highway Safety Laws Report can be found at www.saferoads.org.

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